

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the paragraph on page 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The present invention relates to a vertebral fixing system adapted to be mounted on a vertebra of the spine to connect it to a rod-(10). Said fixing system comprises:

- a connecting part (12)-adapted to face the rib and/or said transverse process and to be connected to said rod-(10);

- an elongate flexible ligature (42)-adapted to connect together said connecting part and at least one rib and/or one transverse process; and

-adjustable locking means (36)-fastened to said connecting part and adapted to fix simultaneously in position said connecting part relative to said rod and at least one portion of said ligature relative to said connecting part, so as to prevent relative displacement of said rod (10)-and said vertebra in opposite directions. --